United Nations S/2004/44

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 January 2004

Original: English

Letter dated 12 January 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the situation in Darfur issued on 7 January 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Richard **Ryan**
Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

04-21517 (E) 210104

Annex to the letter dated 12 January 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the situation in Darfur issued on 7 January 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union continues to actively monitor the evolving situation in the Sudanese region of Darfur and expresses its deep concern for the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation on the ground.

The European Union calls upon the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan Liberation Army to fully respect the ceasefire agreement signed on 3 September, which commits both parties to consolidate peace and stability and calls upon them to go back to the negotiating table in order to work jointly, rapidly and intensively to reach a settlement. The European Union urges the parties to deploy the maximum effort to ensure the full respect for human rights and the protection of the civilian population. The European Union urges the parties to ensure full and unimpeded access by relevant United Nations bodies and agencies and other humanitarian actors.

The European Union stands ready to assist the parties in each field they deem appropriate.

The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the associated countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey and the EFTA countries, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.